

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in full response to the outstanding Office Action of October 24, 2000 on the merits of the above-identified case.

This Amendment also follows the undersigned's telephone conversation with the Patent Examiner assigned to this application. During that telephone conversation conducted on March 12, 2001, the Examiner advised that an Examiner's Amendment would be forthcoming wherein this application would be placed in condition for allowance. Moreover, our authorization was given to the Patent Examiner to charge our Deposit Account 13-1227 for the required extension fee.

However, to date, the undersigned has only received the attached (via fax) from the Patent Examiner of an "unofficial copy" of Page 2 of the Examiner's Amendment, copy attached as marked as **Exhibit A**. Therefore, the undersigned is still awaiting the Patent Examiner's Amendment.

Therefore, out of abundance of caution, the undersigned has prepared the present Amendment in order avoid abandonment of the above-referenced patent application in that to date an Examiner's Amendment has not been entered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office records.

Accordingly, based on the above remarks and the contents of the references of record, the Examiner is respectfully requested to

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reconsider his position. Since nowhere in the art is this new, novel and not obvious combination to be found, taught, or suggested, it is urged that this case is now clearly in condition for allowance and, accordingly, the same is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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